



THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS COUNCIL
DIE SUID AFRIKAANSE RAAD VIR TANDTEGNICI

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FROM THE DESK OF THE REGISTRAR (MRS PERTUNIA NKUNA)

Dear Registered Member

As we approach the midway mark of 2018, I cannot believe how quickly time has flown and how much we have been up to since January. To keep you abreast of matters that affect you, we increase council's communication over the past two years and will continue to do so. Improved communication in the form of short message via electronic means, is not possible without electronic devices and internet platforms. When reading about the recent world-wide media controversy and one of the major social- media giants "Facebook" facing the biggest crisis in its history, one remains conscious of privacy rights and internet challenges.

As always, I like to keep you all up to date about activities here at the South African Dental Technicians Council (SADTC).

- 2018 Roadshows
- Council's term and elections
- Updates on the criminal cases
- Inspectorate Corner

Roadshows

Council will again host a series of Roadshows throughout the country. These roadshows are designed to update the profession on the submitted draft bill, update you on the current state of affairs of the Council and seek to consult with all stakeholders on the future of the profession and Dental Technology in South Africa. Unlike before, please take note that the upcoming series of roadshows will be **self-funded** to cover the cost related expenses. While the exact programme is tailored to update you on some key policy developments, the following elements are included for all roadshows:

- Discussion of the finances and operations of the Council
- Different scenarios regarding the future of the profession
- Technical and Clinical lectures
- Business related Lecture

We encourage the profession to come and be part of the decision concerning the future of dental technology in South Africa. A programme with details and dates will be circulated to you all.

Council Elections

The call for nominations was previously communicated to you, was gazetted and expired. Sadly, the Council did not receive any nominations for members to serve in the next new term of Council. This was rather disappointing to observe a lack of interest from the profession to participate in such a democratic process. The Minister will have no option but invoke section 5(3) of the act, thereby appointing any person that he deems fit to represent the profession.

Criminal cases opened by the South African Dental Technicians Council.

You might recall from the previous newsletters that the office of the Registrar has been very busy with the South African Police Services and the Courts regarding some illegal operations/activities across the country. Below is a quick update on the cases:

1. Mossel Bay case – a criminal case was opened in 2015., To date the case is still on the roll. The Registrar took a witness stand on the 21st of May 2018 and will continue with the cross examination on the 29th of May 2018.

2. Wynberg cases in Cape Town – two criminal cases were opened during 2017 and one of the accused is still behind bars and the other one is out on bail. The police are still busy with the investigations.

3. Grahamstown cases – This is a very interesting case where an illegal operator is operating illegal laboratories in multiple locations. Watch this space for more on this matter. The case will soon be going on to the criminal court roll.

We continue to urge the profession to report all illegal operations in their geographical areas. Note that all information supplied by you must be in the form of an affidavit. In this way, we deal with facts that we address legitimate cases and not a witch hunting exercise against possible competitors.

Inspector's Corner



document that helps the profession navigate the channels of dental technology and dentistry.

There is a common misconception that dental laboratory inspections are done for the sole purpose of 'wrapping the dental laboratory owners over the knuckles'. The office of the Registrar has been set up to answer all your questions around owning a dental laboratory and its certification. We urge you to read the Dental Technicians Act No. 19 of 1979 (Act) as it is still the sole guiding



Through your constant interaction with the office of the Registrar, both the profession and the office will be growing and learning how to deal with the challenges of a changing world of computer aided technology towards which the profession naturally must migrate.

Please follow the guidance given under Sections 29 and 30 of the Act and Government Notice No. R. 308, which illustrates how to manage your establishment under the acceptable standards set out by your statutory council.

Allow me to further draw your attention to Section 32A of the Act, which deals with carrying out your business in partnership, association or as a juristic person. This Council will not register a dental laboratory as a private company which is registered as a (Pty)Ltd. All these aspects are thus verified by the inspectors who will make the required recommendation to Council.

Allow the inspectorate to take this moment to commend all those dental laboratory owners who strive to practice along ethical lines and who have maintained their full registration status ever since Council granted them full registration. Such practices close the gaps which would otherwise be the door to corrupt practices in the profession. Allow your work to speak for itself and this will keep your clients happy and you satisfied with your profession. We have walked into some very beautiful dental laboratories whose owners have a clear understanding of the direction in which they would like to see their business and profession grow. Dental laboratories who argue that the work they do is dirty clearly suggest that they do not understand the importance of working in an environmentally friendly and clean working environment, where correct infection control practices are applied.